

DFG Comments on the Draft California Water Plan

Date: 6/30/04

Comment Number	Volume/ Chapter #	Page Number	Comment
1	Findings and Recommended Actions		No “Red-Flag Issues”
2	Chapter 1: Water Plan Overview		Comprehensive overview of the issues. Nothing to add or refute.
3	Chapter 2: California Water Today		A adequate summary of the biological issues in the Sacramento Valley – Central Sierra Region’s Hydrologic Regions
4	2/2	7	Agricultural Lands Stewardship - #2. Suggest that discussion of appropriate agencies/entities providing resource information should include CDFG and other federal fish and wildlife agencies in addition to mentioning Dept. of Conservation, NRCS and RCDS. One of the major conflicts seems to be differing interpretations of environmental laws, particularly ESA/CESA, thus who better to provide that guidance than the agency responsible.
5	2/9	3	Ecosystem Restoration - Para. #4. Statement is “The State Water Resources Control Board regulates water rights and establishes standards for minimum instream flows”. While such is the mandate, the result is often quite different in application. Would suggest providing adequate funding for State Board to regulate and enforce, and provide the Board with a better “science-based” method of assessing necessary instream flows.
6	2/10	4	Floodplain Management – Bullett #31 - Statement is “The Reclamation Board should work with stakeholders to identify , if any, a list of Reclamation Board regulations that are impediments to flood compatible uses within the floodway and recommended specific revisions”. Would recommend that Rec. Board also review regulations for consistency. Current Rec. Board imposed floodplain standards for encroachment permits often seem to materially differ for projects with seemingly similar impacts where based upon agriculture use as opposed to ecosystem use.

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7	2/12	5	Matching Water Quality to Its Use – Recommendation #2 – Statement is in part “...; one such example is the Sacramento River Watershed Program”. The Sacramento River Watershed Program is often not well coordinated with the various CALFED related programs, in particular the Ecosystem Restoration Program. To accomplish the stated objective of integrating water use and needs, there needs to be better coordination.
8	2/25	7	Watershed Management – Add recommendation #8. Fish and wildlife resource managers should be encouraged to develop management plans on an ecosystem or watershed basis as opposed to what is often species specific approach.